

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANTIGUA'S BREACH OF BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to renew a discussion of an ongoing situation which requires our attention.

The expropriation of the Half Moon Bay Resort in Antigua, owned and developed by a group of American citizens since 1971, was entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD almost three years ago by my predecessor, the Hon. Thomas Tancredo (September 24, 2008—E1891).

I would remind this House that the expropriation of this internationally recognized Resort has been the subject of ongoing legal proceedings from 2000 to June 2007, when the Privy Council in London allowed the Government of Antigua to "forcibly acquire" the property under its sovereign right of eminent domain, provided the owners' rights to payment of compensation were equally upheld.

Since that date, four years ago, the dispossessed owners have had to initiate a number of legal actions against the Government of Antigua to move the process of arriving at compensation as prescribed by Antigua's own laws and Constitution.

At this point, three issues still remain before the Courts: two in the Eastern Caribbean High Court and one before the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal. The subject matter of the cases have to do with the value of the property as established by a Government appointed Assessment Board, and with the owners' Constitutional Right to "fair compensation within a reasonable time."

By request of the Attorney General, representing the Government in each of these cases, the hearings scheduled for dates in the first half of this year have been adjourned without a return date being set.

The hearing before the Court of Appeal may occur during that court's next sitting in Antigua in September, but the Attorney General has already ignored a filing deadline ordered by that body, which may cause further postponement of that hearing.

Meanwhile, Antigua's Ministers have announced various agreements that are being signed with developers for the Half Moon Bay property. Even more outrageous is a statement released to the Antiguan press by the Attorney General (who is also Antigua's Minister of Justice and Minister of Legal Affairs) that such re-development can legally commence prior to any compensation being paid to the dispossessed American owners.

It is an established fact that expropriation of American-owned property and business is a breach of the Caribbean Economic Basin Recovery Act (CBERA) and by ignoring the rights of the owners to prompt and fair compensation, the Government of Antigua has also

breached the WTO International Trade and Investment Rules.

I urge the President, as mandated by the terms of the CBERA, to suspend Antigua's benefits and rights accorded to preferred trading partners.

While the financial effect of such alienation may be negligible, the political aspect of recognizing the breach is essential to maintain respect for the treaty and its signatories. Our citizens deserve no less.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF GARY LABELLA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding American citizen who has made significant contributions to northern Indiana's economy through his work on behalf of the recreational vehicle industry, Gary LaBella.

For more than three decades, Mr. LaBella was instrumental in enhancing the recreational vehicle (RV) industry's image, contributing to the RVIA and the industry's success. The efforts he led in the marketing of RVs has helped unify this industry and transformed the way consumers think about RVs in this country, now and for the future.

Known for his creativity, Mr. LaBella launched an aggressive industry-wide marketing program that earned high acclaim throughout the travel and recreation communities. Under his direction, RVIA and industry partners launched the Go RVing national advertising program in the mid 1990s, which is often referred to as one of the most successful programs in the industry's history.

In 2010, Mr. LaBella organized a celebration for the RV industry's Centennial, culminating with a widely attended June party on the grounds of the RV/Manufactured Housing Hall of Fame and Museum in Elkhart, Indiana. Elkhart is often referred to as the heart of the RV manufacturing community and the RV Centennial Celebration focused on saluting the workers who made the industry great.

RV Business, an industry trade journal, saluted Mr. LaBella in 2010 as one of the industry's 100 most influential executives of all time. Mr. LaBella received a similar honor in 2005, the year he was inducted into the RV Hall of Fame. At a celebration of his career on December 1, 2010, many of the speakers echoed the sentiment that Mr. LaBella perhaps is one of the most influential individuals in the industry's history. Mr. LaBella, a graduate of Utica College of Syracuse University who joined the Reston, VA-based RVIA in 1978, has received an "Outstanding Achievement Award" from RVIA, and in 2010, he received both the Chairman's Award from the Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association and the prestigious Spirit Award from the RV/MH Hall of Fame. In

his farewell to the industry before an appreciative audience of 1,200 at the Louisville, Kentucky trade show, Mr. LaBella said he was leaving the stage with "two overriding emotions—pride in what we all accomplished together to elevate this industry's image, and happiness that I leave RVIA with only friends." Today I rise on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, to salute his character, his personal achievements and his contributions to the RV industry.

JULY 4, 2011 NATURALIZATION CEREMONY IN HAMMOND

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who took their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2011. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony took place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the Hammond Public Library and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, was held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the globe to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The upcoming oath ceremony was a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On July 4, 2011, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oath of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Karen Seballos Dela Cruz, Shimei Yan, Suryaprasad Veeravenka Padala, Juan Pablo Diaz Avila, Luis Eduardo Rivera Ramirez, Blagoja Jofceski, Kulvinder Singh, Horacio Garcia Leon, Samip Rabindra Fozdar, Radhika Ragamanjar Chillarige, Annaji Rao Venkata Chillarige, Tin-Chun Lin, Magdaleno Nevarez Sanchez, Ciprian Daniel Bargo, Leonel Alonso Cancino Ortiz, Mouna Youssef Mikhael, Maroun Elias Elias, Jasmina Salkovski, Pedro Flores Rodriguez, Agnes Joh Smith, Francisco Javier Jimenez, Xiao Yan Wang, Mui Hiong Nykaza, Michael Franco Calonia, Alira Mae Navarro Calonia, Zbigniew Jasek, Claudia Jeanette Darak, James Tan Geulen, Gay Karen Geulen, Dung Thi Lux, Naumka Prentoska, Carlos Bayron Martinez Valencia, Chaudhry Ahtsham Sarwar, Mohammed Yahya Moha Atef, Gabriel Eduardo Orta Gonzalez, Varalakshmi Vaddi, Emmanuelle Renee Fran Davallet Fortney, Daisy Ngina

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